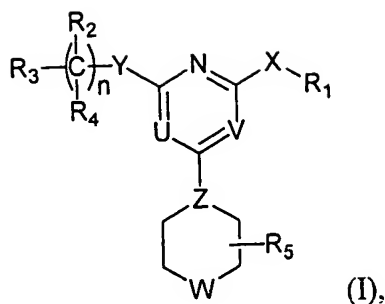
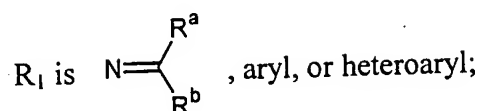


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula (I)



wherein



each of R₂ and R₄, independently, is R^c, halogen, nitro, cyano, isothionitro, SR^c, or OR^c; or R₂ and R₄, taken together, is carbonyl.

R₃ is R^c, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR^c, OC(O)R^c, SO₂R^c, S(O)R^c, S(O₂)NR^cR^d, SR^c, NR^cR^d, NR^cCOR^d, NR^cC(O)OR^d, NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d, NR^cSO₂R^d, COR^c, C(O)OR^c, or C(O)NR^cR^d;

R₅ is H or alkyl;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

X is O, S, S(O), S(O₂), or NR^c;

Y is a covalent bond, CH₂, C(O), C=N-R^c, C=N-OR^c, C=N-SR^c, O, S, S(O), S(O₂), or NR^c;

Z is N or CH;

one of U and V is N, and the other is CR^c; and

W is O, S, S(O), S(O₂), NR^c, or NC(O)R^c;

in which each of R^a and R^b, independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; and each of R^c and R^d, independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, or alkylcarbonyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ is $\text{N}=\text{C}(\text{R}^a)(\text{R}^b)$

3. The compound of claim 2, wherein U is N and V is CH.

4. The compound of claim 2, wherein Z is N and W is O.

5. The compound of claim 2, wherein X is NR^c .

6. The compound of claim 5, wherein R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl.

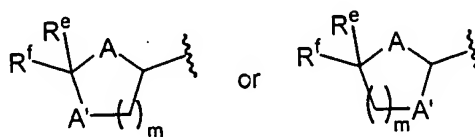
7. The compound of claim 2, wherein Y is O or CH_2 , and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

8. The compound of claim 7, wherein R_3 is aryl or heteroaryl.

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein R_3 is pyridinyl.

10. The compound of claim 7, wherein R_3 is OR^c , SR^c , C(O)OR^c , or $\text{C(O)NR}^c\text{R}^d$.

11. The compound of claim 7, wherein R_3 is



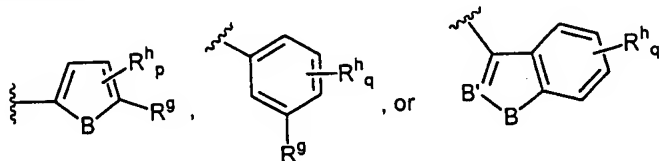
in which

each of A and A', independently, is O, S, or NH;

each of R^e and R^f , independently is H, alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and

m is 1 or 2.

12. The compound of claim 2, wherein one of R^a and R^b is



in which

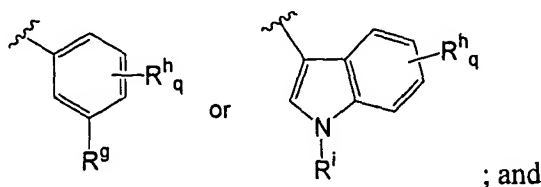
B is NR^i , O, or S;

B' is N or CR^i ;

R^g is H, alkyl, or alkoxyl;

53 R^h is halogen, NO_2 , CN, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OR^c , $\text{OC(O)}\text{R}^c$, SO_2R^c , $\text{S(O)}\text{R}^c$,
 54 $\text{S(O}_2\text{)NR}^c\text{R}^d$, SR^c , NR^cR^d , NR^cCOR^d , $\text{NR}^c\text{C(O)OR}^d$, $\text{NR}^c\text{C(O)NR}^c\text{R}^d$, $\text{NR}^c\text{SO}_2\text{R}^d$, COR^c ,
 55 C(O)OR^c , or $\text{C(O)NR}^c\text{R}^d$;
 56 R^i is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl;
 57 p is 0, 1, or 2; and
 58 q is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

59
 60 13. The compound of claim 12, wherein one of R^a and R^b is



62 the other of R^a and R^b is H or alkyl.

63
 64 14. The compound of claim 13, wherein R^g is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, cyclopropyl,
 65 methoxy, or ethoxy; R^h is F, Cl, CN, methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, OC(O)CH_3 , $\text{OC(O)C}_2\text{H}_5$,
 66 C(O)OH , $\text{C(O)OC}_2\text{H}_5$, C(O)NH_2 , NHC(O)CH_3 , or $\text{S(O}_2\text{)NH}_2$; R^i is H, methyl, ethyl, or
 67 acetyl, and q is 0, 1, or 2.

68
 69 15. The compound of claim 14, wherein R^g is methyl or methoxy; R^i is H; and q is 0.

70
 71 16. The compound of claim 14, wherein U is N and V is CH.

72
 73 17. The compound of claim 16, wherein Z is N and W is O.

74
 75 18. The compound of claim 17, wherein X is NR^c ; and R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl.

76
 77 19. The compound of claim 18, wherein Y is O or CH_2 ; and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

78
 79 20. The compound of claim 19, wherein R_3 is aryl or heteroaryl.

80

21. The compound of claim 20, wherein R₃ is pyridinyl.

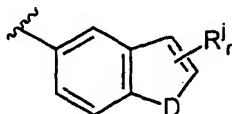
22. The compound of claim 14, wherein Y is O or CH₂, and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

23. The compound of claim 22, wherein R₃ is aryl or heteroaryl.

24. The compound of claim 22, wherein R₃ is pyridinyl.

25. The compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ is aryl or heteroaryl.

26. The compound of claim 25, wherein R₁ is



in which

D is O, S, or NR^m;

R^j is benzo, halogen, CN, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxyl, aryloxy, or heteroaryloxy;

R^m is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl; and

r is 0, 1, or 2.

27. The compound of claim 26, wherein X is NR^c; and R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl.

28. The compound of claim 27, wherein U is N and V is CH.

29. The compound of claim 28, wherein Z is N and W is O.

30. The compound of claim 29, wherein Y is O or CH₂; and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

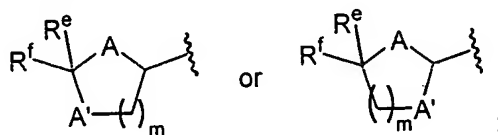
31. The compound of claim 26, wherein Y is O or CH₂; and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

32. The compound of claim 31, wherein R_3 is aryl or heteroaryl.

33. The compound of claim 32, wherein R_3 is pyridinyl.

34. The compound of claim 31, wherein R_3 is OR^c , SR^c , $C(O)OR^c$, or $C(O)NR^cR^d$.

35. The compound of claim 31, wherein R_3 is



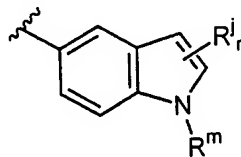
in which

each of A and A', independently, is O, S, or NH;

each of R^c and R^f , independently is H, alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and

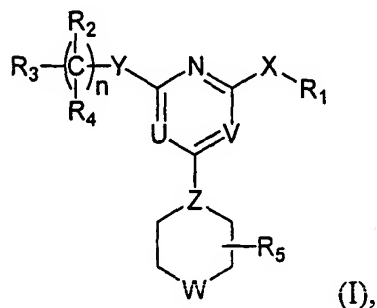
m is 1 or 2.

36. The compound of claim 31, wherein R_1 is

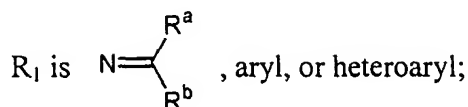


37. The compound of claim 36, wherein R^j is methyl, ethyl, propyl, or benzo; and r is 1 or 2.

38. A method for treating an interleukin-12 overproduction-related disorder, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound of formula (I):



wherein



each of R_2 and R_4 , independently, is R^c , halogen, nitro, cyano, isothionitro, SR^c , or OR^c ; or R_2 and R_4 , taken together, is carbonyl.

R_3 is R^c , alkenyl, alkynyl, OR^c , $\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{R}^c$, SO_2R^c , $\text{S}(\text{O})\text{R}^c$, $\text{S}(\text{O}_2)\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$, SR^c , NR^cR^d , NR^cCOR^d , $\text{NR}^c\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^d$, $\text{NR}^c\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$, $\text{NR}^c\text{SO}_2\text{R}^d$, COR^c , $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^c$, or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^c\text{R}^d$;

R_5 is H or alkyl;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

X is O, S, $\text{S}(\text{O})$, $\text{S}(\text{O}_2)$, or NR^c ;

Y is a covalent bond, CH_2 , $\text{C}(\text{O})$, $\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{R}^c$, $\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{OR}^c$, $\text{C}=\text{N}-\text{SR}^c$, O, S, $\text{S}(\text{O})$, $\text{S}(\text{O}_2)$, or NR^c ;

Z is N or CH;

one of U and V is N, and the other is CR^c ; and

W is O, S, $\text{S}(\text{O})$, $\text{S}(\text{O}_2)$, NR^c , or $\text{NC}(\text{O})\text{R}^c$;

in which each of R^a and R^b , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; and each of R^c and R^d , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, or alkylcarbonyl.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the disorder is rheumatoid arthritis, sepsis, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, or insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.